



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

DECEMBER 2021

# GALA NIGHT

## 16 DECEMBER

**BARRACK & BATES STREETS**      **6PM - 9PM**

late night shopping  
amusements & games  
market stalls

yummy food  
santa  
live entertainment

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### December Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 14 December at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Merredin's website on Friday, 10 December. Public questions can be submitted by 2.00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form here: [www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/)



## ENGINEERING

### Merredin - Naremben Road / Goldfields Road

Please be advised that there has been an issue identified with the seals on the Merredin – Naremben Road and Goldfields Road. The issue is currently in the process of being rectified with the contractor, however temporary measures have been put in place in the meantime. Motorists are asked to please slow down and drive to the conditions.

### South Avenue Upgrades

There will be road works completed along South Avenue, from Great Eastern Highway to Bruce Rock Road, during January 2022. The works are being completed by Main Roads, however, the Shire will be funding part of the project. Following the completion of the road works, the Shire will be replacing the kerbing along the road.

### CBD Project Update

In addition to the 2.1 million dollars in funding received through the Building Better Regions Fund, the Shire of Merredin has now secured a further 1.6 million dollars from the Federal Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. The total funding of 3.7 million has been allocated to the CBD Project including the creation of a town square and the upgrade of Apex Park.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 November 2021, Council moved the decision to allocate additional funds to the town square project to ensure continued progress towards the construction stage. The Shire is expected to move forward to tender for the project once the final pieces of design are worked through with the project team.

At the same Council Meeting, Council nominated 1.1 million dollars of the Federal Government funding to go towards Apex Park, which has been identified as a top priority for the Merredin community. The plans for Apex Park will continue to be worked on over the coming months, with information to be released to the public once available.

Council have also approved the creation of a project manager position, which will ensure both of the above projects will continue to move forward as quickly as possible. Once this person is in place, we expect significant progress to be made.

We encourage locals to regularly check in on the Shire website, or sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, to keep up to date with all our latest news and updates on projects.



## Community Citizen of the year Awards

### Nominees Announced!

The Shire of Merredin would like to extend congratulations to the following people and groups for being nominated for a Community Citizen of the Year Award; Maddie Earle-Sadler, Alan Pryce, Tyler Winter, Chesney Maloney, Kristy Sharp, Margaret Dolton, Merredin Youth Committee, and Petticoat Lane Op Shop.

Judging for the awards will take place in mid December with the winners to be announced at the 2022 Australia Day Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022.

### Welcoming the Shire's New Staff Member

The Shire of Merredin would like to welcome Meg Wyatt to our team, who has joined us from the Shire of Mt Marshall in the position of Executive Support Officer.

#### *A note from Meg*

"I am so excited to join the team here at the Shire of Merredin.

I have worked for Local Government previously for 3 years as both Customer Service and Regulatory Officers, and am keen to continue my learning and expanding my skill set.

I am really looking forward to working with everyone, and being a part of the community."





## JOB VACANCIES

### Cummins Theatre Admin and Engagement Officer

**Position Status: Full Time (Fixed Term—12 Months)**

The Shire of Merredin is currently seeking a suitably experienced person to join our Cummins Theatre team as an Administration and Engagement Officer. This position offers a unique role for a creative, enthusiastic and self-motivated person with a passion for the arts.

Located in the heart of the Wheatbelt, the Cummins Theatre is a multipurpose performance venue owned and operated by the Shire of Merredin. It is used annually to present a diverse range of works by professional touring companies, in house productions by Merredin Repertory Club, community events, live simulcasts and other events.

A position description can be obtained online on the Shire of Merredin website. Alternatively, you can contact the Shire of Merredin on 9041 1611 during office hours or via email [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au).

### Community Development Officer (Events)

**Position Status: Full Time (Fixed Term—6 Months)**

The Shire of Merredin is currently seeking a suitably experienced person to join our team for a fixed term of six months. The position is a full-time role however part-time may be considered.

The Community Development Officer (Events) forms an integral role in the Shire of Merredin's Community Services team. In this position you will represent the Shire in various aspects of community life, most significantly in coordinating community programs and events to be held between January and June 2022. Key events will include the Australia Day Pool Party, International Food Festival and ANZAC Day, along with a host of other exciting activities and program planning. The successful candidate will be flexible and willing to assist in other areas of the Shire's Community Services deliverables, including the Shire's Youth Development program, NAIDOC week activities and Cummins Theatre events. After hours and weekend work will apply.

**Job applications are to include a CV, Statement of Claims against the Selection Criteria, & a covering letter (max 2 pages) indicating your ability to meet the role requirements.**

**Applicants are required to address the selection criteria.**

**Applications for both of the above positions are to be received by no later than 12.00pm, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

### Eric Hind Scholarship Extension

Applications have been extended for the 2021-22 'Eric Hind Music Scholarship', with the new due date being 15 December 2021.

We ask applicants to please observe the criteria changes including the age range which now includes 7 - 20 year old's, reflecting the current Shire of Merredin policy.

Download the Application Form from the Shire website via [bit.ly/EricHindApplication](http://bit.ly/EricHindApplication).



### Eric Hind Music Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2021-22 'Eric Hind Music Scholarship'. This annual music scholarship is awarded to a young talented music student to the value of \$1,000. It is awarded by the Shire of Merredin and named in honour of Mr Eric Hind as recognition and acknowledgement for his contribution to the Shire as a Councillor and his accomplishments as a violinist.

Applicants must be aged 7 - 20 years and be a music student. An applicant must reside in Merredin or alternatively, they may be a boarding school student who has previously been a student at Merredin College or St Mary's Primary School.

All applications must be received at the Shire of Merredin Administration Centre, cnr King & Bates Streets or via email to [ea@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@merredin.wa.gov.au). The scholarship will be awarded at the 2022 Australia Day Breakfast to be hosted by the CRC.

**Details for how to apply are available on the Shire website - visit [www.merredin.wa.gov.au](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au). Applications close 15 December 2021.**



### Christmas Rubbish Collection

There will be **NO CHANGE** to the rubbish collection service for this Christmas period.

All services will be as normal for the New Year Week.

All Christmas run information will be posted on the Avon Waste website here: [www.avonwaste.com.au](http://www.avonwaste.com.au)



## Remembrance Day 2021

On the morning of Thursday, 11 November 2021 at 10.30, the flags located on the Visitor Centre lawn were lowered to half-mast.

Surrounded by a sea of red poppies, there was a sense of calmness as community members began to fill the chairs onlooking the three flag poles that stood proudly side by side.

The service was officially opened at 10.47am with Shire President Mark McKenzie welcoming those in attendance and reading the commemorative address.

“Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the resolution of the First World War...” he begun.

Originally known as the Great War, WWI was a conflict that left more than 9 million people deceased, of which 60,000 were Australian soldiers.

“Today, as we should every day, we remember those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died for our freedom.

We thank you, and we salute you,” Shire President McKenzie concluded before inviting forward representatives from Vietnam Veterans, Shire of Merredin, Merredin College, and St Marys, to lay their wreaths.



Aubrey Tompkin came forward to read The Ode before the familiar bugle sound of The Last Post rang throughout the Merredin CBD. At 11am, the crowd paused for a minute’s silence to pay their respects to all of those who sacrificed their lives.

Moments later during the Rouse, an honour guard of three representing WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, raised the flags. The Australian and New Zealand National Anthems then played for the crowd to conclude the service.

The Shire of Merredin would like to thank all those who attended the Remembrance Day service. Lest we forget.



## FIRE SAFETY

### Fire Danger Ratings

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) tell you how dangerous a fire would be should one start. The higher the FDR, the more severe a bushfire would be.

The Shire of Merredin has two FDR signs at the eastern and western edge of the Merredin townsite on the highway that are regularly updated. FDR for the region can be also viewed on the Emergency WA website - [bit.ly/FireDangerRatingsWA](https://bit.ly/FireDangerRatingsWA)

### What do the ratings mean?

When the FDR is **Low-Moderate** or **High**, it generally means that any fires that start can mostly likely be quickly and safely brought under control. **Very High** means conditions will potentially be hot, dry and/or windy, and a fire may be difficult for firefighters to control. A FDR of **Severe** or **Extreme** means conditions are very hot, dry and windy, and if a fire starts it will be unpredictable, fast moving, difficult for firefighters to bring under control, and will be very dangerous for members of the public within the fire’s proximity. **Catastrophic** FDR means conditions are the worst they can possibly be as far as fire safety is concerned. The only safe place to be in this situation is far away from the fire.

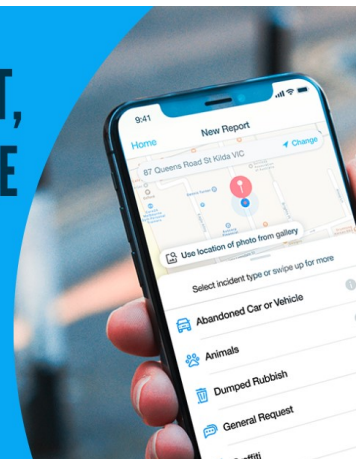
Finding out the FDR should be the first step in actioning your Bushfire Survival Plan. You should consider the rating when you decide whether to stay and actively defend your property or whether to leave early.

**If someone you know tells you about a possible emergency, or if you can see or smell something that might be dangerous, that’s your warning. Take immediate action to stay safe. Do not wait to receive a warning text message.**

**SNAP IT AND SEND IT,  
SO THE RIGHT PEOPLE  
CAN SOLVE IT**

*Reporting local issues has never been easier*

**Snap  
Send  
Solve**



## Shire Facility Christmas Hours

	Administration	Visitors Centre	Cummins Theatre	Library	Swimming Pool	Landfill Site
20 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
21 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
22 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
23 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 6.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
24 Dec	8.30am - 12.00pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 12.00pm	10.00am - 12.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
26 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	2.00pm - 6.00pm	CLOSED
27 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
28 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
29 Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
30 Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
1 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	CLOSED
2 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.00pm
3 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm
4 Jan	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Ranger Services: 0400 240 787 | Town Maintenance Supervisor: 0429 411 412 | In an Emergency, please call 000

### Vacation Swimming Lessons at Merredin Pool

VacSwim lessons will be held from Friday, 17 December - Thursday, 23 December. Late enrollments will be on Thursday, 16 December with a time TBC. Each lesson will run for 45 minutes, with stages 1-16 available. For more information, contact Megan Simmonds on 0439 411 147.



## Sketchbook Project

The Travelling Sketchbook Exhibition is an extension of The Sketchbook Project. Each year, Propel sends blank sketchbooks to individuals, libraries, schools, community groups and organisations across Western Australia.

Participation is open to all young people aged 12 - 26, who are free to fill their sketchbook with anything that takes their imagination - drawings, photos, poems, painting, cut-outs, collages and more! First exhibited at the State Library of WA in April at the 2021 Youth Week WA KickstART Festival, these sketchbooks are now making their way across regional libraries for everybody to enjoy.

The exhibition will be at the Merredin Library from November until 6 December. Come and be inspired to create your own Sketchbook in 2022!

The Sketchbook Project is a collaborative and visual experience that provides an opportunity for young people to share their own personal stories and passions with the wider community across Western Australia.



**Share your own story across Western Australia!**

**Propel Youth Arts WA is inviting young people aged 12-26 from across WA to participate in the 2022 Sketchbook Project.**

Register for the project and we will send you a free sketchbook to fill in however you wish. Yes, we accept every sketchbook that's returned!

All submitted sketchbooks will be exhibited as part of the 2022 Youth Week WA KickstART Festival (April 8 -16) at the State Library of WA.

Then all sketchbooks embark on a tour of regional and suburban libraries, sharing your stories and art in an ongoing event called The Travelling Sketchbook Exhibition.



**REGISTER**

Scan the QR code for more information and to register for the Sketchbook Project.



## Grab your Christmas Presents at the Visitor Centre

The Visitor's Centre has a great selection of products that would make a great present for either your family or friends this Christmas!

Bee Buzzy Wraps is a local small business making beeswax food wraps using beeswax from A Buzz from the Bees, owned by the local Cheeseman family! Bee Buzzy Wraps also has hand rolled beeswax candles, perfect for your Christmas table or they also make a lovely gift.



We have pottery made by local potter Barbara Greaves from Wheatbelt Pottery, mugs, plates and bowls as well as quirky little sheep and pottery scenes.



Why not pop in this December and have a browse of what's on offer, we'd love to see you!





## Looking for hosts for medical students

### Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

TUESDAY 15 TO FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022

## Share what living in the Wheatbelt is like with doctors of the future

Two hundred medical students will be spending one week in the Wheatbelt in March 2022. During their stay, they will visit local farms, industry, general practices, hospitals and schools, and participate in community activities.

We need you to provide real-life experiences that will give them an understanding of what it is like to live in the Wheatbelt and perhaps inspire them to become rural doctors.

Students will visit the following towns:

#### **The University of Notre Dame Australia students**

Bruce Rock, Merredin, Narrogin, Southern Cross and Westonia.

#### **Curtin University students**

Cunderdin, Corrigin, Kellerberrin, Moora and Wongan Hills.

As a host, we will ask you to provide bedroom/s for 2 or more students as well as breakfast and dinner (students can assist with this); live no more than 30 minutes from town and be

able to assist with transport to/from town; share what it is like to live in your town; and come along to a Thank You Dinner with the students.

#### **Why host?**

This is a life-changing experience for the students, with many having no previous exposure to rural life or the Wheatbelt.

By providing these rural immersion opportunities early in their degree, it has been proven that students are more likely to explore rural career opportunities.

Some students continue to keep in touch and visit their host families, some return to do seasonal work and placements, others have joined mentoring programs, and some have inspired host family members to pursue tertiary studies in health and medicine.

For further information, contact **Betony Dawson:**

T 08 6389 4567 | E [betony.dawson@ruralhw.com.au](mailto:betony.dawson@ruralhw.com.au)

Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network Presents

# CHRISTMAS POOL PARTY

10 DECEMBER | 10AM - 12PM | MERREDIN POOL  
FREE EVENT | 0 - 5 YEARS

Join us for a fun morning of water activities, yummy fruit salad and games as we celebrate the end of the year!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 8 December to 9041 1222. Bookings essential.

Proudly Supported By



CALLING ALL YOUTH OVER 8  
FREE EVENT!

# Games Day

FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER  
MRCLC COURTS  
10AM - 1PM

Activities include 3x3 basketball, 3 point shoot off, wellness tent, doughnut eating, games & much more! Free Sausage Sizzle included!  
For more information, contact Darcie at the Shire on 9041 1611.

CUMMINS THEATRE  
*The Heart of the Arts in the*

# Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 17th December 2021

Come along and 'deck the halls' as we wrap up the year with our special Christmas Morning melodies.

Featuring Justin & Katherine Freind!

Doors open at 10:30am for morning tea.  
Concert starts at 11:00am - 12:00pm

Tickets are \$15\* and include morning tea.  
(Bookings essential for catering purposes)

Book at [www.trybooking.com/BVMMC](http://www.trybooking.com/BVMMC)  
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

\* transaction fees may apply

★★★★ HOTEL ★★★★★

# CALIFORNIA

*The Eagles Experience*  
2021 AUSTRALIAN TOUR

New Date 2022

Friday 18th February 2022  
Cummins Theatre - Merredin

With a stage full of show-stopping voices and musicians, relive the beautiful country harmonies, the rockin' guitar solos and the masterful songwriting in all its glory.

Tickets available at [www.cumminstheatre.com.au](http://www.cumminstheatre.com.au) or in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre